

REMARKS

Applicants have amended the title of this application to be more consistent with the claims, as amended and as further discussed herein.

With respect to the claims, the Examiner rejected claims 1-29 under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph as indefinite for certain language in independent claims 1, 6 and 24. The claims have been amended to remove the phrases “or the like” and “such as”, as well as language that listed various examples of data entry/interface devices. The examples and phrases such as “for computers and the like” need not be listed in the title or the claims as the specification provides ample support for the phrase “data entry/interface device”. Indeed, removal of the language listing various examples should not be deemed to be narrowing in nature.

The Examiner also rejected claims 1-3 and 5 under U.S.C. 102(b) as anticipated by U.S. Patent 5,791,263 to Watt et al. However, the Examiner noted that claim 4 would be allowable if rewritten to overcome the Section 112 rejection and to include the limitations of the intervening claims. It is respectfully submitted that the point of novelty added by the limitation of original claim 4 supersedes the limitation of claim 3, and need not rely on the limitations of claim 2 to impart patentability over the prior art. Therefore, independent claim 1 has been amended to include the limitations of claim 4, and claims 3 and 4 have been canceled. Also, Applicants have amended dependent claim 5 to correct its dependency and to correct minor informalities concerning the internal consistency of the claim language that were noted upon further review of the claims.

Accordingly, Applicants have amended independent claim 1 to overcome the Section 112 rejection, as noted above, and to add the limitations of claim 4. In turn, Applicants have

canceled claims 3 and 4, amended claim 5 to remove informalities and claim 2 remains as it was originally presented. It is believed that amended independent claim 1 with each of the actuator handles connected to its respective release assembly by a flexible, movable cable, and claims 2 and 5 depending therefrom distinguish over the prior art and are in condition for allowance.

The Examiner further rejected claims 24-26 and 28 under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as anticipated by U.S. Patent 6,279,859 to West et al., but acknowledged that claim 27 would be patentable if rewritten to overcome the Section 112 rejection and to include the limitations of the intervening claims. Applicants have amended claim 24 to overcome the Section 112 rejection, as noted above, and has further amended claim 24 to include the limitations of claims 25-27 to achieve the allowability noted by the Examiner. Claims 25-27 have been canceled, and claims 28 and 29 have been amended to correct their dependency and to remove a minor informality in claim 29. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully submit that amended independent claim 24 and claims 28 and 29 that depend therefrom are in condition for allowance.

Also, the Examiner noted that claims 6-23 would be allowable if rewritten to overcome the Section 112 rejection. Claims 6, 7, 8, 12, 13, 16-19 and 21 have been amended to overcome the Section 112 rejection and to correct minor informalities concerning the internal consistency of the claim language that were noted upon further review of the claims. Claims 9-11, 14, 15, 20, 22 and 23 did not require any amendments to overcome the Section 112 rejection, which stemmed from independent claim 6 from which they depend, and therefore, these claims remain as originally presented. Accordingly, it is believed that claims 6-23 continue to distinguish over the prior art, and with the amendments noted herein, claims 6-23 are in condition for allowance.


Applicants thank the Examiner for his consideration in reviewing the original application and this Amendment, and invites the Examiner to call the undersigned if the Examiner has any

questions regarding this Amendment. It is respectfully submitted that claims 1, 2, 5-24, 28 and 29 are in condition for allowance.

No new matter is added and no change in inventorship is believed to result from the amendments to the claims proposed herein. The application now contains 24 claims, of which 3 are independent claims. No fee for additional claims is due because Applicants have previously paid for a total of 29 claims. A check for the associated fee of \$120.00 is enclosed for the one month extension of time to respond. If the Examiner determines that there are any additional fees due in connection with the filing of this Response, please charge the fees (or credit any overpayment) to our Deposit Account No. 13-0019.

Date: April 19, 2005

Respectfully submitted,

By: 
David M. Thimmig
Reg. No. 36,034

MAYER, BROWN, ROWE & MAW LLP
P.O. Box 2828
Chicago, IL 60690-2828
Customer No. 26565
312/701-8593